

Congressman criticizes injection wells

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosted a public hearing Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza in Romulus, seeking more public comment on the controversial injection wells owned by Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS).

The EPA has proposed to renew the underground injection control permits for the company.

The EPA announced plans for the hearing earlier this month, just days after Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) hosted a town hall meeting at Romulus High School to discuss the injection well issue.

Many state and local representatives attended the meeting to show support of the cities of Romulus and Taylor, who have been trying to stop EDS from pumping hazardous material into the wells for more than 12 years.

Those same representatives, including U.S. Congressman John Dingell (D-Dearborn Heights), again made their voices and concerns known during the latest meeting.

Dingell, who has been a staunch opponent of the EDS well, again made his opinion well known to representatives of the EPA who were present at the hearing.

"The EPA needs to listen to the people who live in these communities," he said. "They have been constant in their opposition to this well since this began years ago."

Dingell said that the public safety is the most important thing and in his opinion the EPA has not demonstrated that there is no possibility of the public being in harms way.

"There is a possibility that there could be upward migration at some point if the EPA allows EDS to pump the hazardous waste," he said. "So what is the EPA going

to do if these residents one day find themselves saturated in hazardous waste?"

Dingell said it would be very simple if EDS and the EPA asked the residents in Romulus and Taylor their opinion on the wells, "What part of 'no' do you not understand?"

The latest controversy stirred when Sunoco Oil filed a petition with the EPA asking them to reconsider an exemption issued to EDS in March.

The exemption freed EDS from federal restrictions on land disposal of hazardous waste for the two injection wells, which are located in the City of Romulus.

EDS, a company that disposes of hazardous waste, would use the wells, which are about 4,200 feet below the surface, to hold hazardous liquid wastes-including acids and heavy metals like mercury, chromium and nickel.

See **Hearing**, page 3



Tribute

Last week, the Romulus Police Department honored Smokey, a K-9 dog who died from complications from surgery recently. K-9 dogs and their handlers from neighboring communities came out to pay tribute to Smokey, along with the Romulus Police Honor Guard who performed a three-gun salute. Mayor Alan Lambert spoke at the service and said Smokey will forever be a part of the police force and will be greatly missed.



Fireworks set to light up the skies on July 4

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Residents looking for ways to celebrate Independence Day this year need look no further than the annual City of Romulus Fourth of July celebration.

The fun will begin at noon on July 4 at Elmer Johnson Park, located on Ozga Road, south of Wick Road.

There will be a variety of games for children, including a dunk tank and water play and spray section in the park.

Little League baseball games will be going on throughout the day in all five divisions. The annual three on three half-court basketball tournament will also take place. Registration deadline for this event is today.

All of the events will conclude with the annual Romulus fireworks display sponsored by American Diesel, Inc., State Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor), Bizarre Promotions, Buck's Oil Company, Country Wood Florist, Cox, Hodgeman and Giarmarco,

Elkins Machine and Tool, Header Properties, M.W. Morss, Inc., Muchmore Harrington, Smalley and Assoc., Nappco, Inc., Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment, inc., Seifman and Associates, Teamsters Local 214, Wade-Trim and Whispering Willows.

The fireworks will begin just after dusk.

"I think we, by far, have one of the best fireworks shows around," said Mayor Alan Lambert. "Every year it seems like the whole city is out watching our fireworks from many different locations. It is always a lot of fun."

The display, which is executed by Colonial Fireworks, is expected to last approximately 30 minutes and can be seen in the skies between Romulus Middle School and Wick Elementary School.

If the skies decide not to cooperate on July 4, the city has set a rain date for July 5.

For more information call (734) 942-6852.

Mayor's Drug Task Force to host annual golf outing

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

It is that time of year again in Romulus.

Sunny weekend mornings bring a new sense of freedom, as long as the tee time is early enough.

Golf is in full swing just in time for Mayor Alan Lambert's Drug Task Force (MDTF) golf outing, which is set to take place on Friday, July 9 at the Shady

Hollow Golf Course, located on Wayne Road in Romulus.

"It has become a popular event over the years," said Kristin Irwin, the Romulus recreation program coordinator and a member of MDTF. "People like to come and have fun, but at the same time do something for a good cause."

The task force is a non-profit organization comprising business and civic leaders, whose mission it is to keep the commu-

nity drug-free and the children of Romulus safe from the harmful effects of substance abuse, said Irwin.

The 16th annual golf outing is an event that many residents look forward to each summer, especially Lambert.

"This golf outing is so important, because it helps raise money for a great organization that I am proud to be a part of," said Lambert. "The money raised from this event helps fund this

cause for the entire year, so we need a lot of support."

Last year the golf outing brought in more than \$16,000. That money provides six scholarships for students and residents wishing to further their education. The money is also used to fund different events throughout the year that promote a drug-free lifestyle for children, as well as healthy living.

"This year we have already donated \$1,000 to the healthy liv-

ing committee, which is sponsoring a 5K fun run this year during the Pumpkin Festival," said Irwin. "So it's our way to be able to promote a healthy lifestyle for the kids in Romulus."

Registration for the golf outing will begin at 7 a.m. at the Shady Hollow Golf Course. The fee is \$75 per golfer. Then at 8 a.m. there will be a shotgun start.

"It is a great time, because we

See **Golf**, page 3

Girlstown Foundation sets annual fundraiser

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Girlstown Foundation members are brushing up on their golf in order to generate funds for the agency.

Elaine Carter, director of funds development, said that the upcoming golf outing is a big fundraising event for the residential child-welfare agency.

The third annual golf outing will take place at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 24 at the Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Course. Tickets are \$100 per golfer and will include: a golf scramble, lunch at the turn of the tournament, a silent auction, prizes, 50/50 raffle and an American dinner buffet. For \$50, people can enjoy dinner, too.

Carter said that Girlstown Foundation hopes to collect more than \$15,000, hopefully surpassing the \$10,000 generated last year.

Staff members and the board of directors of Girlstown Foundation started the golf outing when they heard that there was an interest.

"We wanted to find a way to make the community aware of the agency and what we do here," she said. "It's not about raising the money so much as it is raising the awareness. We give an excellent service to our clients and we want everyone to be aware of that."

Girlstown Foundation is now in the 45th year of operation. It is a multi-service organization providing family, community, mental health and child welfare services for families throughout Michigan. The programs include: residential and treatment services, supervised independent living and specialized and general foster care services.

The organization recruits, trains, certifies and supports fos-

ter families for girls who are unable to return to their families. There are various reasons a child may need foster care, including: abuse, neglect, abandonment or delinquency. The children vary in age, sex, ethnicity and need, according to the organization.

Carter said that although foundation is included in their name, the organization is really something more.

"We made foundation a part of the name because we wanted to do something that would be a base for the girls to give them empowerment," she said.

The event will also feature three guest speakers from Girlstown who will share their experiences of success with the organization.

Numerous donations from area businesses and people have already been received, Carter said. Several Belleville "in kind

donators," which provide a service or gift certificate, have been received from: Main Street Flowers, Dos Pesos, Creative Insurance Planning Inc., Bank One Corp., Woodlands of Van Buren, Applebee's, State Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton), State Rep. Kathleen Law (D-Gibraltar) and Van Buren Township Supervisor Cindy King. Franklin Homes at Belleville Manor will be one of the hole-sponsors this year.

Proceeds will go to fund the programs and services at Girlstown Foundation, specifically the lock-río program, the transitional treatment program and the supervised independent living program, according to Carter.

"The money that we are raising is important to these programs because they are not funded through the State of Michigan," she said. "Things that the state does not pay for, we do. There are also things that our

clients need, such as special tutoring or driving lessons, that we would provide for them."

The organization was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant from Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation of Ann Arbor to work on funding a new full-service adoption program. The program will allow Girlstown Foundation to service any person interested in adoption, giving the clients and foster parents the opportunity to stay with the agency if the foster children in their home become available for adoption.

"One of our goals is to develop a foster family visiting room to provide a homely atmosphere during visitations," said Carter. "It is important that the children and family can interact in a comfortable manner."

For more information, or to sponsor or donate to the Girlstown Foundation, contact Carter at (734) 697-7242.

Plymouth Township grants \$900,000 tax abatement to corporation

Kevin Hill
Staff Writer

After receiving approval from Plymouth Township officials, Material Sciences Corp. (MSC) plans to bring more than 50 new high-tech jobs to the township in the next five years. That's if they can clear the final hurdle in securing tax credits from the Michigan Economical Develop-

ment Corporation (MEDC).

At their regular meeting last week, township trustees gave MSC a 50 percent tax abatement valued at \$900,000 during 12 years. The corporation will move into and improve a 2-year-old, 51,000 square foot building on Port Street, and use it as a research and development facility.

"(The building) fits our needs

very nicely," said Mark Gresser, automotive director for MSC, who was at the meeting.

But Gresser said that MSC had yet to submit a lease agreement to the township because he did not have specific confirmation about state tax breaks from the MEDC.

"We can't commit to a lease until we get all the tax credit from the local municipality and

the state," he said.

"The process itself is kind of paradoxical because we've got to tell (the MEDC) where we're going to be, yet we're waiting for them to ... give us sufficient tax money to actually locate in Michigan."

Gresser said the company will employ 26 initially, at an average annual salary of \$95,000 per person. In the first year of operation,

MSC will add six more jobs, and then another 20 during the next four years.

MSC, which is "in the business of solving noise and heat problems," also considered sites in Novi and Canton Township. The facility will be the MSC "Noise, Vibration, and Harness (NVH) Technical Center," and will be used to perform extensive noise testing on vehicles and systems.

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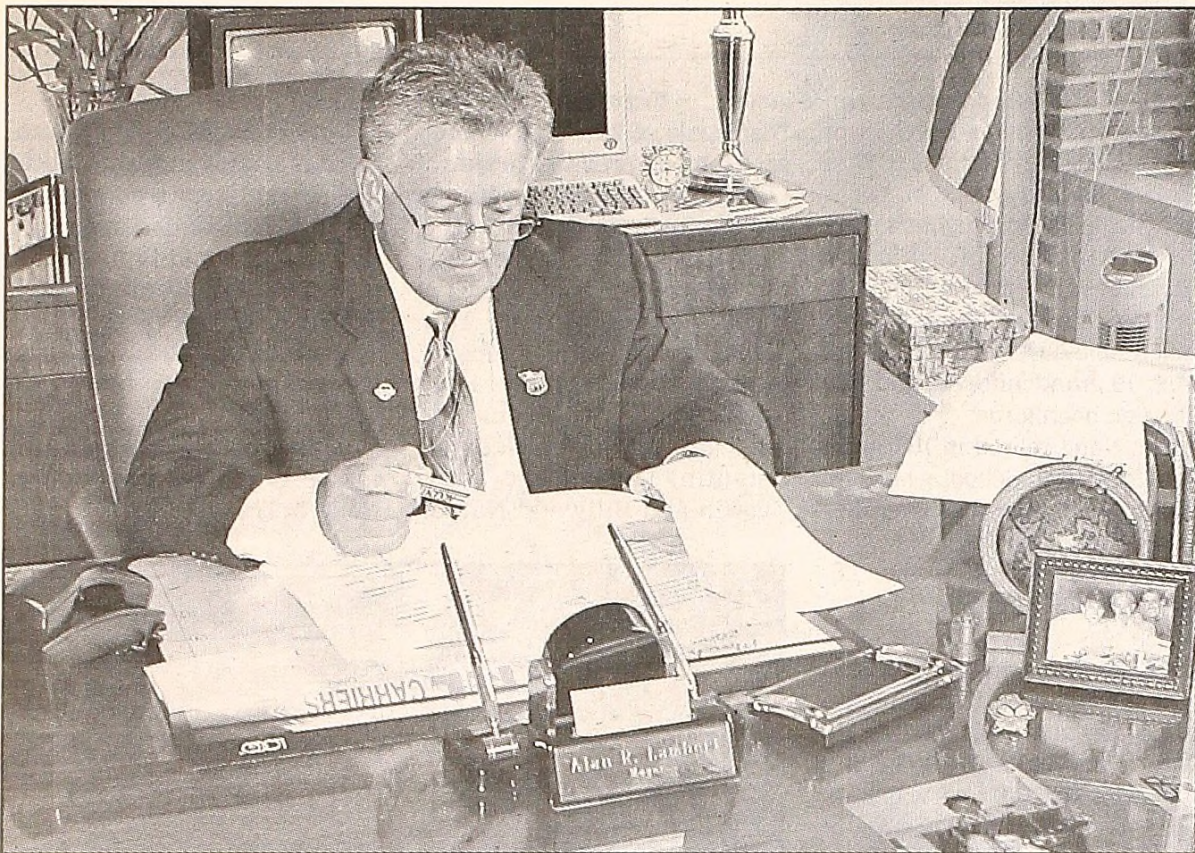
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Mayor Alan Lambert rigorously prepared for his testimony before the U.S. Congress last week on the topic of gaming.

Negotiation regarding Racino bill continues

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Opponents and supporters of proposed state legislation to allow slot machines at racetracks continue to argue their positions in Lansing.

State Rep. Larry Julian (R-Lennon) introduced the bill last year as a means of bolstering racetrack profits through the addition of video gaming to race-track facilities and off-site betting. Since that time, the proposal has been debated in both the State House of Representatives and in the State Senate. Currently, the bill has been returned to the House to await final drafts.

"I would like to have my bill on the governor's desk before we break for the summer," said Julian. He added that once the budgets are set, he would have more of an opportunity to speak with the governor about what would be included in the bill in order to gain her approval.

To date, Governor Jennifer Granholm, a Northville native, has maintained a fairly neutral position on the issue. However, other political figures representing Northville and surrounding communities have been vocal in their opposition to the bill.

State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nov) said that she has been opposed to the plan since its creation.

"My opinion has been consistent," said Cassis. "I opposed the expansion of gaming in the State of Michigan." She added that she had voted in opposition to the plan once before and was prepared to do so again.

State Rep. John Stewart (R-Plymouth) echoed Cassis' condemnation of the proposed bill, saying that he did not want to see slot machines and other new gaming activities added to Northville Downs.

Stewart also questioned the need for the expansion.

"The Northville Downs Racetrack is making a nice little profit," he said. "There's no room for expansion there."

The proximity of the Northville Downs Racetrack to the downtown area of Northville is one of the primary objections voiced by opponents of the plan, who do not want to see gaming expanded in the downtown area. It is a problem unique to Northville, where the city developed around the track. It was also one of the reasons cited when the city government publicly opposed the bill.

Bob Mauseth, chief of staff for State Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) said that Patterson had worked to amend the bill to help benefit Northville residents.

The result of their efforts will likely be decided within the next few weeks, as Julian said that budget discussions are drawing ever nearer to conclusion. In fact, the budgets are tentatively expected to be completed within the next few weeks. He added that once the budget is approved and the committee members have the opportunity to speak with Granholm on the issue, the bill is likely to move quickly through the appropriations committee to a final vote.

Stewart said that although he isn't happy about it, the bill appears to have the votes needed for approval. He also expressed the opinion that the governor might approve the project on the grounds that the state needs the revenue.

Regardless of whoever else supports the bill, both Cassis and Stewart say that one thing will remain the same.

"My vote will remain unchanged," said Cassis. She added that she believes the majority of her constituents support her position.

Romulus mayor testifies before Congress

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

It's no secret Mayor Alan Lambert has been working with U.S. Congressman John Dingell (D-Dearborn Heights) and the Sault Ste. Marie tribe of the Chippewa Native Americans to bring a casino development to Romulus. Last week, he took that fight to Washington.

Lambert testified before members of Congress in Washington D.C. when he appeared before the House Committee on Resources in support of House Bills HR 2793 and HR 831, the proposed Native American Land Settlement Agreements which would allow the tribe to build a casino in Romulus.

The tribe has proposed a \$350 million casino, conference center, golf course and hotel, which representatives for the tribe said they believe would bring an anticipated 17,500 people to Romulus each day. It would have more than 2,500 slot machines

and 90 table games. They estimate that this casino, which would sit on 40 acres of not-yet-disclosed land, would add 3,500 jobs to the city.

The tribe has estimated Romulus will receive \$6 million in slot revenues each year.

In his testimony before the committee, Lambert said a Romulus casino would be a huge economic generator for all of Southeastern Michigan. "The casino can be a beautiful destination style resort and will include a hotel, convention center and other amenities," he said.

"It will also draw additional commercial development such as retail stores, movie theaters and offices."

He said the development would improve the economic climate for all of Southeast Michigan.

"My reasons for support are simple," Lambert said. "A casino will bring 3,500 new, high-paying permanent jobs to our city of 23,000."

That's something that Lambert said he believes would help the residents of Romulus in the current economic state.

"The average household income in Romulus is \$31,000 per year," he said. "The casino jobs will average \$40,000 per year, including benefits."

He showed the members of Congress the support the casino venture has received from both the residents and local groups and organizations, including the Romulus Police Officers' Association, the Police Officers' Association of Michigan and the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Lambert, who has never testified before Congress before, said the experience was gratifying. "I was honored to represent the citizens of Romulus in an effort to help bring new jobs and quality development to our community," he said.

Lambert said he vows to continue to fight on behalf of the residents of Romulus.

Hearing

FROM PAGE 1

Sunoco plans to store natural gas for future use in the formation. When the gas is in demand, Sunoco would then bring up the gas and replace it with brine or salt water.

If EDS were also allowed use of the wells to dump the hazardous waste, Sunoco would bring the hazardous waste to the surface when it brought up the gas.

The EPA contends that, based on an extensive review of EDS's petition for exemption, scientific data and public comments, "the waste will stay confined to a layer of rock deep underground and will not threaten human health or the environment."

The EPA will be accepting public comment on the permit issue until midnight July 12. All comments should be sent to the EPA, Region 5, Office of Public Affairs, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Golf

FROM PAGE 1

are all just out there to have fun," said Lambert, who admits he is not much of a golfer. "I would like to warn everyone ahead of time to be careful around me on the golf course. I seem to yell out 'fore' a lot these days."

The participants will then receive a small lunch at the turn, followed by a dinner at 3 p.m.

Tickets for only the dinner can also be purchased for \$50.

"This is such a great cause and we would love to have as many people participate as possible," said Irwin.

For more information on the golf outing call (734) 942-6852.



Treasurer honored

This week, the Romulus Board of Education honored Treasurer Michael Woods, pictured here with his wife, Alfaye, for his 12 years of service to the Romulus Community Schools. Woods was cited for his active membership on many different committees during the years, as well as the contributions he made while serving the board as president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Woods opted not to seek re-election and will be replaced on the board by newly-elected Thomas Kuderik.

OBITUARIES

HARTWICK, Walter Charles

Walter Charles Hartwick, 65, a lifelong resident of Belleville, died June 21.

Among his survivors are his brothers, Dale Hartwick of Howell and James Hartwick of Fort Lauderdale, FL; a sister, Rosemary Traskos of Belleville, and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Hartwick was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Belleville where he was baptized on Oct. 23, 1960 and where he had his confirmation.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. John R. Hagen officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

LINDSAY, Richard J.

Richard J. Lindsay, 85, of Romulus, died June 20.

Among his survivors are his wife, Josie E. (Palmer) Lindsay; a son, Richard Scott (Pinkie) Lindsay of Daytona Beach, FL; a daughter, Marion Louise (Billy Joe) Blevins of New Boston, and a brother, Roy Trude of Tampa, FL.

Mr. Lindsay was retired from Great Lakes Steel. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus with the Rev. Steve Adams of the Romulus Wesleyan Church, where Mr. Lindsay was a member, officiating.

Interment was at Romulus Cemetery in Romulus.

SKELLY, Clifford W.

Clifford W. Skelly, 57, of Belleville, died June 21.

Among his survivors are his wife, Nancy L. Skelly; children, Patricia (Eric) Brackman and

Christopher Skelly, and grandchildren Tiffany and Joey Brackman.

Funeral services were at St. Stephen Catholic Church in New Boston.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

GENTZ, Donald J. Jr.

Donald J. Gentz, Jr., 54, of Addison, died June 21.

Among his survivors are his wife, Deborah; children, Danielle, Gerald, Stephanie and Jessica Gentz; his parents, Donald and Phyllis Gentz, and sisters, Susan (Lary) Kreps, Elizabeth Stokes and Marianne (Terry) Cecil.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Huron Township.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

DINKLEMAN, Theresa

Theresa Dinklemann, 74, of Belleville, died June 22.

Among her survivors are her son, Frederick (Linda) Dinklemann of Allen Park and grandson, Christopher Dinklemann.

Mrs. Dinklemann was a former member of the Women of the Moose, Belleville Lodge 934.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Father Thomas H. Cusick officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

NAULT, Gerald A.

Gerald A. Nault, 83, of Taylor, died July 13.

Among his survivors are his wife, Marie A. (Uren) Nault; sons,

Gerald T. Nault of Huron Township, Thomas L. Nault of Loomis, Geoffrey P. Nault of West Branch and Lawrence M. Nault of Lincoln Park; daughters, Rita L. (Melvin) Kero of Willis and Christine M. Nieman of Romulus; brothers, Louis E. Nault of Novi and Kenneth D. Nault of Hibbins, MN; 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Nault retired in 1987 from Romulus High School where he had been employed as a teacher and principal for 40 years.

Mr. Nault served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He was a 35-year member of the Kiwanis Club in Romulus and was active with the pancake breakfasts and peanut sales. He was a past president of the Progressive Club and was honored as the Romulus Person of the Year.

He was a member of the St. Aloysius Usher Club, the Gregorian Club and worked on the festival committee.

Funeral services were at St. Aloysius Catholic Church with Father Alexander Wytrowski officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

GRAJEK, Edwin John

Edwin John Grajek, 80, of Traverse City, formerly of Wayne, died June 19.

Among his survivors is his wife of more than 58 years, Ann Grajek; a

sister, Frances (Walter) Wisniewski of Westland; a brother, Raymond (Pennie) Grajek of Las Vegas, NV; children, Joanne (Jim) Safoutin of Grand Prairie, TX; Janice Akans of Traverse City and Henry (Ann) Grajek of Evart; grandchildren, Tara Safoutin, Ryan (Aris) Safoutin, Christa (Bill) Corwin, Lynn Gorman and Rick Akans, and great-grandchildren, Madeline Safoutin, Lauren and Jacob Corwin and Billy and Nathan

Grajek.

Mr. Grajek was a much-decorated Marine veteran of World War II and received several Purple Hearts during the liberation of Guam and Bougainville. He retired after serving 27 years as a Wayne Police Officer.

Interment will be at Arlington Memorial Cemetery in Washington D.C.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Covell-Smith Funeral Home in Traverse City.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR PRIMARY ELECTION Tuesday, August 3, 2004

To the Qualified Electors of CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF
VAN BUREN – WAYNE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Tuesday, July 6, 2004 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in the following manners:

In Person:

- At the township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.
- At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.
- At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some offices of the Commission for the Blind.
- At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

By Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

JOANNIE D. PAYNE, CLERK
734.699.8909
46425 TYLER RD.
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MI 48111

Qualifications for Registration

1. Applicant is at least 18 years of age.
2. Resident of Van Buren Township for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

Note:

A Person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the August 3, 2004, Primary Election is Saturday, July 30, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

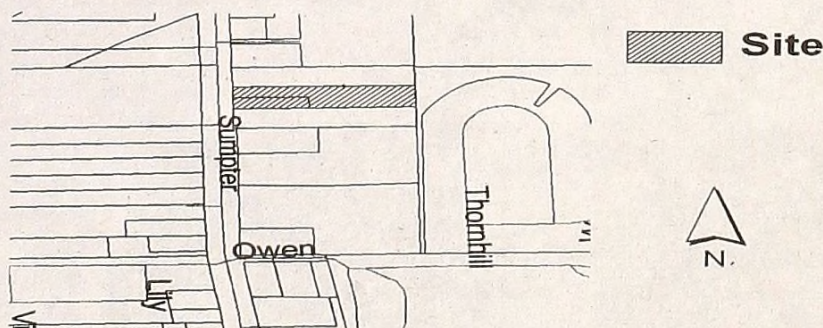
Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: June 24, 2004
July 1, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday July 14, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan.

The Public Hearing is to request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92 by rezoning the following described property from M-1Light Industrial to C-1 General Business:



This is a portion of parcel tax ID number V-125-83-106-99-0008-001 and V-125-83-106-99-008-002. This property is located on the west side of Sumpter Road between Belleville and Hull Roads.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: July 1, 2004
Posted: July 1, 2004

OPINION

A slow steady process

As communities around the Detroit metro area look to redefine their urban centers, one phrase continually comes to the forefront: blight control.

Nothing is more apt to hamstring an effort to revitalize a downtown than a recalcitrant property owner who pays his or her taxes and performs a minimal amount of maintenance on his or her buildings.

It can be a long and frustrating process to get these people to take more care in their buildings, keep up the fresh coats of paint, take care of the weeds. It's often more difficult to get them to buy into the philosophy of upgrading their respective properties in a way to enhance the look of the community, particularly because it invariably costs money that they don't want to spend.

The lack of apparent action can lead people to believe the respective municipalities they live in either don't care or are powerless to help, and that's rarely the case.

Take the City of Wayne, for example, where the recently formed 2020 Committee is making blight control one of their top priorities. It's not as if the city hasn't been steadily working on the issue for years; in fact, just the opposite is true. City officials have long been on the forefront of blight control efforts; they use every legislative tool they can and are always eager to try out new ones.

Even so, it's not always a quick process. It involves the proper notifications to property owners, regulated timelines and all that. It can be excruciatingly slow, but we actually wouldn't have it any other way. After all, the slowness inherent in the process is designed to protect property owners, some of whom may have legitimate reasons for allowing their buildings to fall into disrepair.

It's a fine line for city officials to walk; it's one between responsiveness and oppression. It is probably best summed up by Hal Hultman, a member of the Wayne 2020 committee and an ordinance officer in Novi.

"It's like straightening teeth," he said. "It takes slow, steady pressure."

Our local American heroes

For the past several years, Fourth of July parades have taken on a special significance as Americans have discovered a deeper sense of patriotism.

It's easy to show up on the day of the parade, whether it's on the Fourth of July in places like Plymouth, or a day earlier in Northville, wave flags, cheer on the spectacle, 'ooh' and 'aah,' over the floats and tap our feet along to the marching bands, and then go on our way, fighting traffic as we return to our homes and traditional barbecues.

And it's just as easy to forget how much effort goes into planning the parade, the long hours spent fielding applications, listening to music, sifting through ideas and making sure everything is just right.

It's sometimes hard to believe that it takes as much as a year to plan a good parade. Parade organizers like Fred Hill in Plymouth and Shari Peters in Northville deserve a lot of credit for not only taking on these important patriotic events, but improving them.

Anyone who has witnessed the end of the Plymouth parade can see how much effort Hill puts into the organization of it; his briefcase brigade drill team is a popular exclamation point to an event that begins the day earlier than any other parade around the country - 7:30 a.m.

What's more impressive about the efforts of Hill, Peters and company is that it's not the only thing they concentrate on. They both have regular real-time day jobs and other commitments, too. The organization efforts often take a back seat to the real world, and when the holiday seems imminent, it can mean a lot of frantic, last-minute work.

Those efforts are much appreciated, though, even if the thanks are not adequately articulated. In fact, with these community-minded individuals behind the parade every year, it's easy to see why Americans have a lot to feel patriotic about, no matter what else is happening elsewhere in the world.



Water, water, everywhere

I recently moved into a loft on the riverfront in downtown Detroit. I'm just starting to realize some of the perks. This past week, I watched the fireworks from the roof of the building and didn't have to battle traffic back to suburbia. Thankfully, the only fireworks I saw were the ones in the sky. Down below at Hart Plaza, we know, was a different story.

Another perk is the water pressure. It's absolutely insane. It comes out of the faucet like a bat out of hell, seemingly destroying everything in its path, pounding the sink with the velocity of a jackhammer.

And it's no wonder. The source for a lot of the metro area's water is right across the street from my building, the Detroit River. Each day, I make the same trek a lot of the water does for residents in communities like Wayne, Westland, Plymouth and Canton: over the freeways and through the 'burbs, to grandmother's hose I go.

But a lot of people in subur-

ban communities aren't too happy with this set-up. Complaints about the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) range from high water rates to sketchy accounting practices.

It's gotten so bad, that a special state House of Representatives committee has been formed to look into the DWSD. Also, more recently, last week 23 communities in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties got together to fund a study that would explore alternative sources of water.

That's not an option in Canton, according to Tim Faas, township municipal services director. He said the communities funding the study are close to water sources like Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. It wouldn't be feasible somewhere as far out as Canton.

"Unless we can build a giant pipeline, it seems like a remote possibility," he said jokingly.

Every time I hear about battles over water, I can't help think-

ing of Roman Polanski's 1974 classic *Chinatown*.

The plot of the movie deals with water, or lack of it, in the Los Angeles area. The most memorable line of *Chinatown* comes when Jake Gittes, played by Jack Nicholson, watches his beloved shot in the street. A cop turns to him and says, "Forget it, Jake, it's Chinatown."

But that, of course, is in arid southern California. And we're in Michigan, surrounded by one of the largest systems of fresh water in the world, fighting over water. It's not that simple, of course. The battle between the city's water department and its suburban water customers stems from years of strife between the city and the suburbs. It's about time to set aside differences, and do whatever's best for the entire region.

But sometimes this seems to be a pipe dream.

Forget about it, John, it's D-town.



Cutting Loose
by John Counts

Improve through healthy curiosity

I've always believed that one of the best things a person can do, from a mental perspective, is to develop a curious mind about life.

One of my favorite hobbies is asking people about their families, where they grew up, their jobs, whatever. I joke that I'm the biggest busybody around, but the truth is that I like finding out about people, what experiences have shaped them, what makes them tick. It's great fun and a wonderful way to learn and build relationships with people.

There are other things we can do, too, to exercise our minds. Next time you come across a word you don't know, instead of skimming by it, find a dictionary

and learn about it. What does it mean? How did it originate? How is it used? It might just stick in your head for the next time you're searching for that perfect word or phrase.

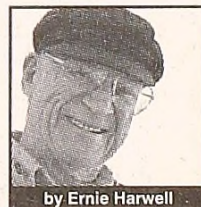
Traveling is another great way to expand your horizons and see how other people live. Our country is so beautiful and diverse, and full of learning opportunities. I also highly recommend traveling abroad, if you're able, because it can really give you a new perspective on the world and life.

When we cultivate our minds, we improve ourselves and become more well-rounded.

And that's a healthy way to be. And remember, take care of

your health before it's long gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

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Respect your neighbor

After reporting on the City of Romulus for the last 10 months, I have learned a thing or two about the people who reside there.

On the whole, they are a group of hard-working, blue-collar employees trying to make ends meet each month. And while the majority of them may not be able to afford lavish luxury items, it doesn't seem to be a problem. At the end of the day, these folks have everything they need.

This is, of course, a gigantic contrast to the proposed Michigan Downs racetrack in the city. It promises an extravagant and luxurious facility that will bring people thousands of people to Romulus each day.

I guess it didn't strike me until the planning commission meeting last week that the two are definitely not one and the same.

The words that kept flying out of Magna Entertainment Corp. representative Lorne Kumer's mouth were "world class" and "state-of-the-art".

And he was just talking about the stables.

He went on and on about the living quarters for the horses and how they are very precise and exact and don't forget "world class" and "state-of-the-art".

But, Romulus residents don't live in the high-class world of these horses and they don't

want to. I think that was made quite evident during a recent six-month moratorium on development that had some residents begging the city to protect their rural neighborhood.

I guess it made me think about the people who live in the city compared to the horses that will reside in the "world class" stables.

In essence the horses at the racetrack will be living better than many of the residents in Romulus.

Now, before anyone calls PETA, I am an animal lover. I think animals should be treated with great respect and love. However, I have to tell you, I don't think I agree that a single horse could be worth \$7 million, but that is another story.

And while I do not live in

Romulus, I have gotten to know many of the residents who do and this seemed condescending to me on the part of Magna Entertainment Corp.

The people in this city are not impressed with a \$7 million horse living in the lap of luxury, while they work 60-hour work weeks to pay their tremendously high electric bills and get food on the table.

I understand that MEC is selling something and they have to make it sound like the racetrack will be located in heaven, but at the same time this international company has to remember who their neighbors will be and show a little respect, Romulus style.



Odds and ends
by Ashley Lawrence

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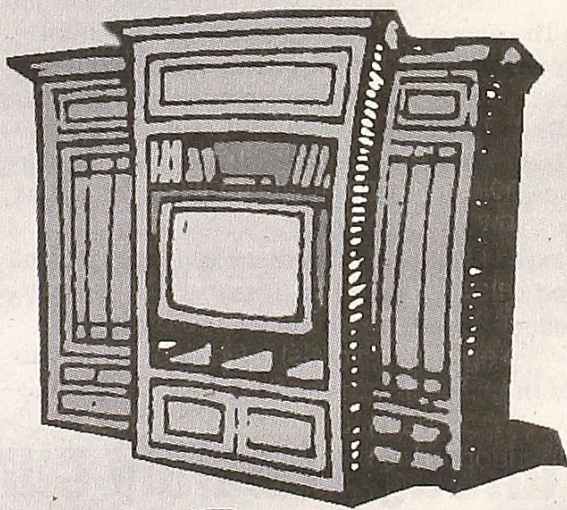
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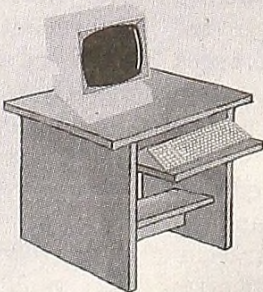
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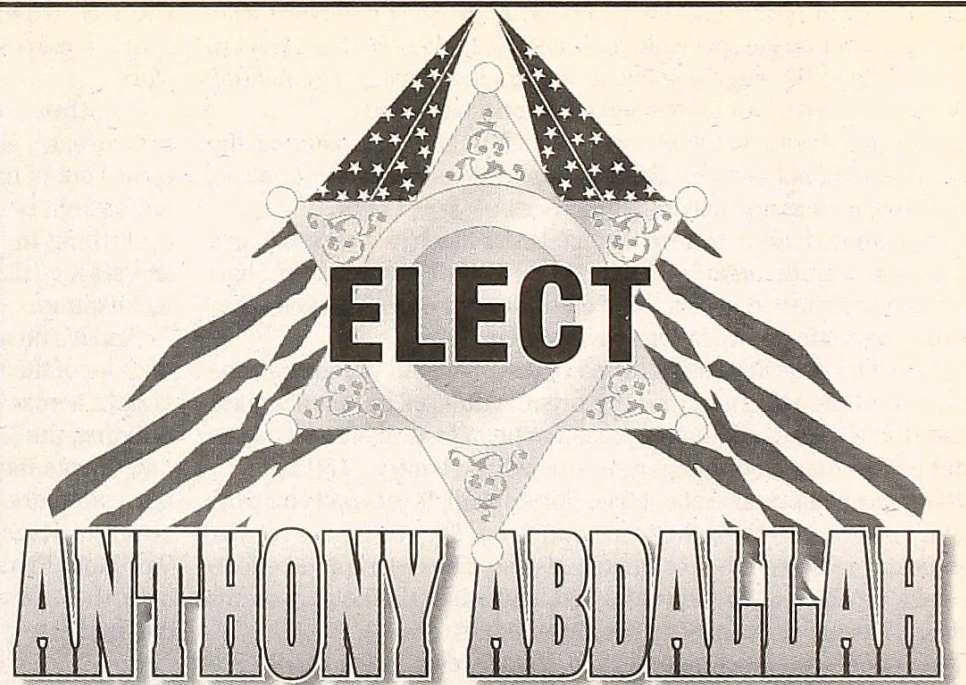
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Rotary Club to help fund Riggs Park development

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Plans for the makeover of Riggs Heritage Park in Van Buren Township continue to move forward.

Vincent Averill, Van Buren Township parks manager, recently brought the master plan for the park to a Belleville Rotary Club meeting. Club members expressed an interest in helping to fund the park improvements. At one point, the club offered to contribute \$150,000 to restore and maintain the buildings, particularly the Riggs farmhouse, built in 1867.

Averill said the lines of communication will be kept open between the Rotary Club and the township.

"We are still in the works as far as donations go, but the club is adamant on making sure the

restoration on the house is done," he said.

"We are also still working on the details as to what work will be done to the house. I'm confident that an agreement between the township and the Rotary Club will be made. It is important to have them involved because they are such a fixture in the community."

The master plan for the 30-acre park, located on the corner of Huron River Drive and Martinsville Road, will include more than \$2.7 million worth of improvements. The master plan includes an amphitheater, pond, picnic sites, walking trails, a historical village, the restoration of the Riggs home and extra open space for outdoor activities.

According to Averill, the land was donated by Crosswinds Communities Inc. of Novi, so they could build more homes on

the adjacent property near Martinsville and Savage roads. The land includes the historic Riggs home.

The first step will be to work on the farmhouse. Possible use could include space for community groups or a park office.

Richard Frank, a leading restorator who has worked in other communities such as Ypsilanti, will be working on the project, said Averill.

"He has helped us prepare a bid proposal to have the house sealed off so it doesn't deteriorate," he said.

"We will now look to bid out the proposal."

The master plan, a synthesis of ideas put together with public input, is used as a guide to help the project take shape. The park development will be done in phases.

"The timeline will be getting

the house sealed off and protecting the barn from further wear and tear," said Averill.

"After that, there are no specifics steps. We will put the park together piece by piece as the finances come into the

plan."

Funding for the project is still open for discussion, Averill said. The \$2 million grant from Wayne County could be used along with funds from the parks budget and other possible grant money.

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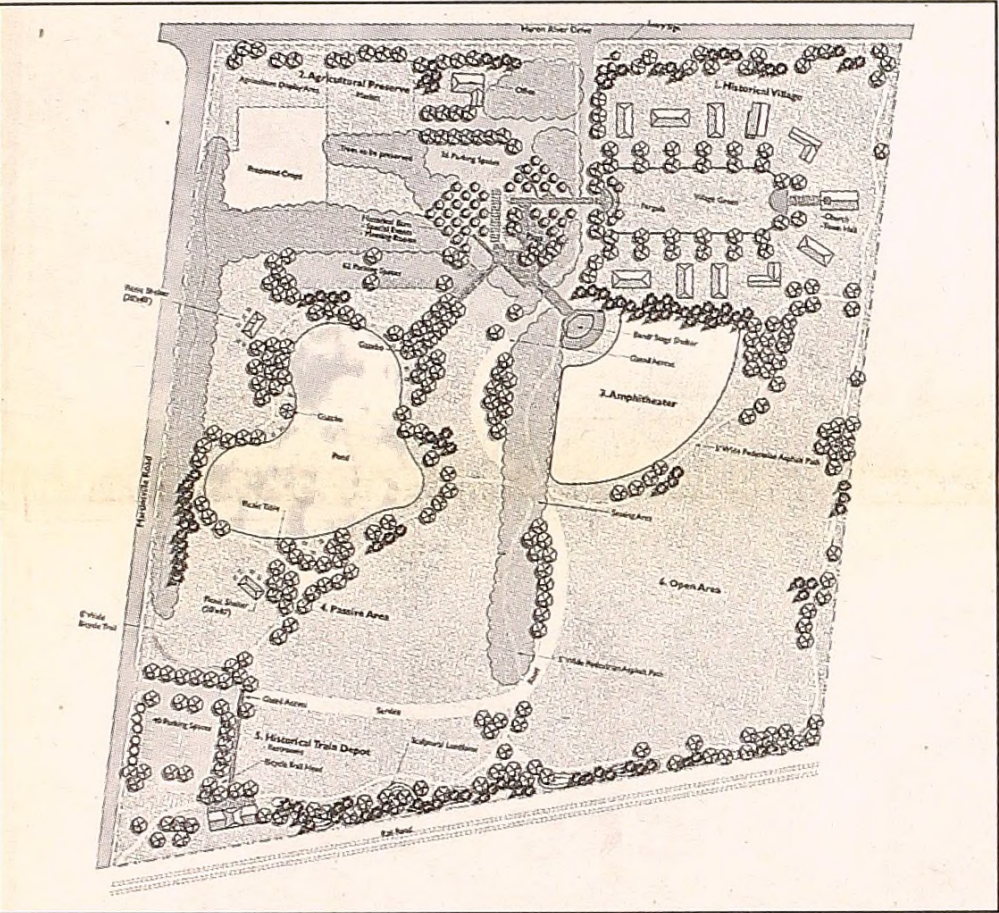
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The master plan for the 30-acre Riggs Heritage Park, located on the corner of Huron River Drive and Martinsville Road in Van Buren Township, will include more than \$2.7 million worth of improvements. Renovations include an amphitheater, pond, picnic sites, walking trails, a historical village, the restoration of the Riggs home and extra open space for outdoor activities.



Mega champs

The Romulus Eagles' varsity softball league finished undefeated, 10-0, in league play to capture the Mega Gold League championship this season. Members of the championship team include: first row (from left) Jennifer Dick, Kate Appel, Katie Hale, Kenise Thompson, Chelsea Smith, Victoria Lucaj; second row (from left), Stephanie Garner, Lauren Romak, Neddy Pena; third row (from left) Head Coach Kellie Knight, Kristine Plank, Amanda Hollis, Rebecca Thornton, Jessica Bright, Sabrina Hool, Lashanda Whitehead, Jessica Dick, Lindsay Beregasy and assistant coach Nikki Place.

NOTICE CITY OF ROMULUS

NOTICE OF LAST DAY TO REGISTER
FOR THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
AUGUST 3, 2004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Primary election will be held in this County, Tuesday, August 3, 2004 and that I, the undersigned City Clerk for the City of Romulus, will upon any day except Sunday or a legal holiday, receive application for registration from any elector entitled to register in said City, not already registered, who may apply for said registration.

Registrations will be taken at the Office of the City Clerk, Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. until Tuesday, July 6, 2003.

THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE AUGUST PRIMARY WILL BE:
TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2004
8:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

Candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices will be voted upon in the City of Romulus, Wayne County, Michigan.

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 - State Representative
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WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSAL Q BALLOT ADVISORY QUESTIONS

SHALL SECTION 3.115 OF THE WAYNE COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSION MAY PLACE ADVISORY QUESTIONS ON THE BALLOT?

____ YES ____ NO

WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSAL R REMOVAL OF COMMISSIONER FOR CAUSE

SHALL SECTION 3.115 OF THE WAYNE COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT A COMMISSIONER MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY A 2/3 VOTE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CONVICTION OR ADMISSION OF A FELONY, AND BE DISQUALIFIED FROM RUNNING FOR OR HOLDING A COUNTY OFFICE FOR 3 YEARS; AND TO PROVIDE THAT A COMMISSIONER MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY A 4/5 VOTE FOR MISFEASANCE OR MALFEASANCE OF OFFICE OR FOR MOVING OUT OF DISTRICT?

____ YES ____ NO

Public notice is hereby given as provided for in Section 168.653 of the Michigan Election Law, as amended.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: June 24, 2004
July 01, 2004

THE SCENE



Hot topic

FAHRENHEIT 9/11 demonstrates political divide

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Summer movies typically consist of extravagant special effects and little substance, but Michael Moore has changed all of that with *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

At least for the summer of 2004.

The controversial film opened in theatres June 25th after a well-publicized fight with Disney CEO Michael Eisner. Eisner refused to distribute the film, which earned record box office numbers.

The film brought in a staggering \$21.8 million in just three days, making *Fahrenheit*, not only the top grossing film of the weekend, but also the top grossing documentary of all time, outside of concert films and IMAX movies.

Moore beat out his Academy Award winning *Bowling for Columbine*, which grossed \$21.6 million during its entire run in theatres.

In a nation already torn along political lines, this movie serves to make those lines a little more defined and less rigid on the fringes.

Moore's message throughout the film is clear: The Bush administration not only lied about the Iraq and Al-

Throughout the film, Moore throws in events, meetings and facts that make audiences gasp, laugh and weep.

Queda connection with the Sept. 11 attacks which eventually led to the current war, but also did it for their own personal and financial gains.

During the first 15 minutes of the film, movie-goers get a grim and haunting reminder of the events of 9/11, but not with the images we have all seen over and over again on television.

A black screen serves as the backdrop to the sounds of that day. The first plane crashing into the World Trade Center, followed by the second. In the background are screams and cries from those on the ground witnessing the horrifying events.

The film then cuts to an elementary school where President Bush is reading to a group of children, where he was when chief of staff, Andrew Card, informed him of the first plane crashing into the World Trade Center.

The film continues to show the President for the following 10 minutes, after Card comes back to inform him, "Mr. President, the United States is under attack".

Moore goes on to show the ties the Bush family has to the Bin Laden family as well as Saudi Arabia royalty. On the morning of Sept. 11, former President Bush was actually in Washington D.C., just miles away from the Pentagon, meeting with members of the Bin Laden family. Something Moore contends is suspicious.

Throughout the film, Moore includes events, meetings and facts that make audiences gasp, laugh and weep.

Moore's extreme scorn for the actions of the Bush administration is evident throughout the film, as he randomly splices in commentary on the events leading up to the Iraq war, as well as the aftermath of the continuing occupation.

It is a film that every American citizen should see, even if they don't agree with Moore's opinions. It documents a period in our history that will forever be remembered one way by the conservative right and another way by the liberal left, but it proves one thing to all of the country:

We are truly a nation divided along political lines.

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THE SCENE

On the record Local musician hopes for hit with newest recording

Kevin Hill
Staff Writer

Starting a music career isn't easy, especially at age 44.

But as Randy Wayne Sitzler sat down for an interview at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, it was clear he was concerned more about the music than the career.

"The music comes first," said Sitzler, a Plymouth resident since 1997. "It's not about making a hit record, and it's not about image and the looks."

Sitzler has loved music all his life; his parents were from the south, so he was exposed to artists such as Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard. He counts The Beatles as an influence as well, and his music, best classified as Americana, can be called a meld of country, rock 'n' roll, and folk.

"It doesn't fit anywhere yet, that's the deal," he said. After thinking for a moment, he added, "It's Woody Guthrie, man, that's where it started."

His parents' southern roots influenced not only his sound, but his personality as well. Sitzler, who was born in Detroit, said that family history "kind of puts you in a different position than most that grow up here. You eat different foods, you have a different twang to your language a bit."

"You just have a different way of life from...how you handle yourself to your work ethic, all the way down the line."

And Sitzler's music has drawn him back down south. Though he has played some coffee shops and given private concerts in Michigan, he performs more frequently in Nashville and Texas. He said this area isn't as receptive of the genre.

"There's not really a big Americana scene here, and there needs to be," he said. "I mean, people need to realize that it's a great form of music—if they're sick of the bubble gum (pop

music)."

It was when Sitzler traveled to Nashville eight years ago that he realized he wanted to pursue music seriously. He had a chance encounter with Walt Wilkins, a man with whom he would eventually collaborate and form an independent record label.

"He's just a prolific writer," said Sitzler, awed at the mention of Wilkins' name.

He also met Rick Beresford, who tutored Sitzler in the craft of songwriting.

"He took me under his wing, so to speak," Sitzler said. "There is a right way to write. He taught me to how do that, and I thank him for all that."

Today Sitzler has two full-length CDs under his belt. His 2001 debut, *Hard Days in the Heartland*, was billed as a powerful testament to the blue collar worker.

"When I write a song, it's a story," said Sitzler, recalling songwriters such as Cash and John Mellancamp. Sitzler said his stories are more than simply personal experience.

He empathizes with his family and friends, and tells their stories as well.

"I twist 'em around a bit," he said, "but I'm very observant and detail-oriented. I draw from that. I draw from life experiences and write about that."

As his day job, Sitzler owns Abbot K. Schlain, a specialty construction company. He bought the company in 1994 after working there for nine years. But his recently formed music label may change all of that.

Highway 29 Records, formed last September with collaborators Wilkins and Tim Lorsch, released Sitzler's second album, 2003's *Pontiac Trail*. Wilkins has also released his CD, *Mustang Island* on the label.

And as outside interest in Highway grows, so does Sitzler's



Randy Wayne Sitzler's blue-collar work ethic extends to his music. Working construction by day, he values good songwriting over image and "bubble gum." Sitzler, a Plymouth resident, will perform with Walt Wilkins at Karl's Cabin on July 9.

excitement.

"(Schlain) pays the rent, but this music thing and Highway 29 Records is taking off like a rocket," Sitzler said with widened eyes. "It's chugging along."

"It's where we want to move, toward this record label. So, slowly I'll weave my way out of the construction industry. A second career, so to speak—at 44," he said, smiling.

But Sitzler, who married two years ago and has a son, remains cautious about the future. Asked if the Nashville-based label will lead him south permanently, Sitzler seemed reluctant to leave behind his Midwest home.

"I see myself living in Michigan," he said. "I think the label will (continue to) be based out of Nashville, or Texas."

Tirami Su
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THE SCENE

Paperback Original sure to end up on must-have lists

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Book Review
Paperback Original
Will Rhode

Tired of all those cliché best sellers and Oprah Book Club reads that get all of the attention every year? Still looking for that perfect summer read that can be stuffed in a backpack and taken on the trail?

Either way, for something original try Will Rhode's *Paperback Original*.

With India as the backdrop, Rhode starts the story on outlandish grounds and never relents as he takes readers on a hilarious journey including a Viagra overdose, cons, drugs, murder, sex and money.

Unemployed journalist, Joshua King, lives aimlessly in the slums of Delhi and finds out that his rich father has committed suicide by an overdose of Viagra—a hard way to go. His father bequeaths him 5 million pounds but there's one major stipulation—he must write a bestseller with his father as a major character within five years of the suicide.

Josh decides that the money could set him up for life and with it he would never have to work again. But, he doesn't think he has

the imagination or patience to conjure a best selling novel. So what is a guy supposed to do?

"If I'm going to write a best-seller, I might have to do some things—scary things, dangerous things just to get the story," he says.

That line of thinking sends Josh on an entertaining tale of adventure and scandal.

His idea is to search for and befriend the elusive and dangerous drug dealer named Baba. Once inside the drug world he plans a heist to relieve the drug lord of a lot of money and a lot of diamonds. The plan, if it works, would set him up for life regardless if he writes the book or not.

The heist is more than a one-man show, so Josh enlists his Indian friend Sanjay, who recently returned to India to make a go as a Bollywood actor, and the mysterious and beautiful Yasmin. Hailing from the Netherlands, Yasmin lives in the apartment below him and wants to raise

money to get her boyfriend out of jail.

The elaborate scheme sends the crew from Delhi to Mumbai (formerly Bombay) to Pushkar in search of riches to set them up for life.

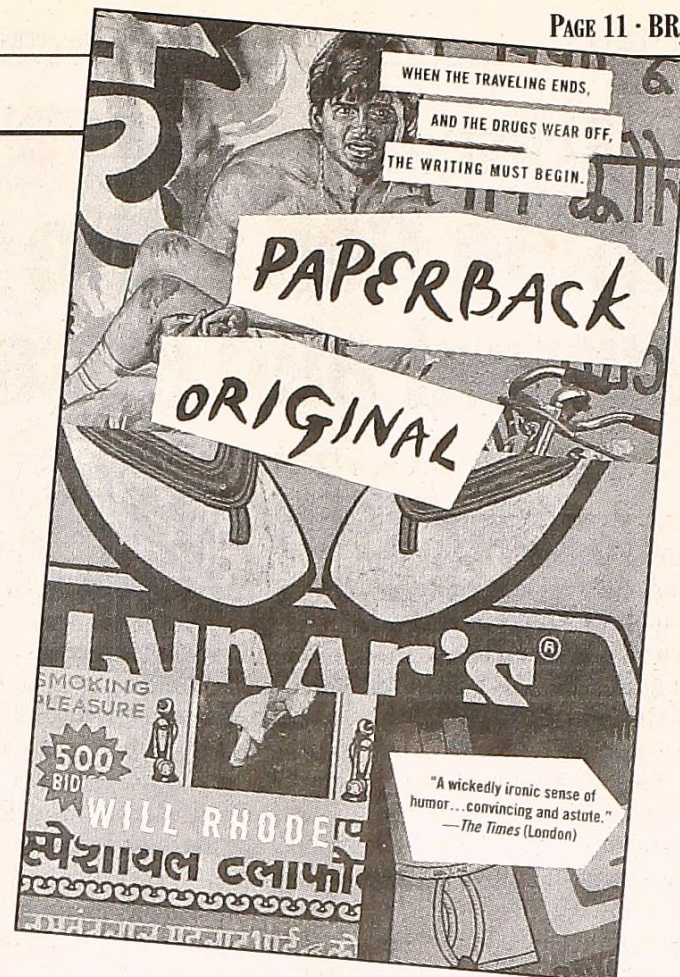
But of course things don't work out perfectly as the plot twists and turns to the very end.

Rhode, according to press materials, was a reporter for Reuters where he covered India. His vast knowledge of the country shines through on every page with exciting detail of the sights, sounds and smells of the gritty and seedy side of India.

The story moves quickly and every chapter throws a new twist or obstacle for Josh to overcome. Although the storyline is over the top, readers won't be able to put the book down until they find out what happens to the very likable hero, Josh. Despite what happens in the end, all that really matters is that Josh actually wants to be and thinks he can be a real writer.

Just because *Paperback Original* isn't a bestseller—yet, doesn't mean it shouldn't move up on readers' must have list for the summer.

Highly recommended.



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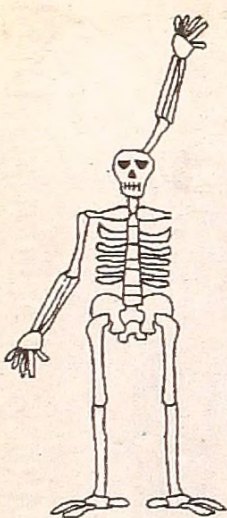
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THE SCENE

Vernon God Little takes satirical aim at society today

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Summer is usually known for blockbuster hit movies, however, the season can also provide a plethora of fun-filled reads convenient enough for the backyard patio and easy to take on vacation.

Vernon God Little by DBC Pierre was an unexpected treat this summer. Newly released in paperback format, it had me shifting in my seat and cheering for the underdog.

Taking the essence of *Catcher and the Rye* with a little bit of *Huckleberry Finn* thrown in for good measure, *Vernon God Little* is a satirical and comical look at violence, materialism and media in America today.

When 16 kids are shot to death at the high school in Martirio, Texas, someone has to take the fall. After the shooter, Jesus Navarro, takes his own life, his best friend, Vernon, is marked by the townspeople, the media and the police as the fall guy.

Vernon is introduced after his arrest. He sits in the police station in nothing but his underwear and Nike sneakers waiting for his interrogation by Deputy Vaine Gurie. She is an intriguing char-

Book Review Vernon God Little DBC Pierre

acter who veers from the Pritikin Diet every chance she gets with her insatiable craving for ribs and Chik'n'Mix from the Bar-B-Chew Barn.

Although a 16 person high school slaying is no laughing matter, Pierre rarely mentions the killing and focuses more on Vernon and the life he endures from that point on.

Vernon, 15, has his own secrets, family and personal, to hide and remains silent about what really happens on that day. But leave it to the media to distort and spin the facts to not only turn the story around but also turn Vernon's life upside down.

It's not surprising that the small town of Martirio, a place where everyone is known by the type and brand of shoes they wear and parents of deceased children use the insurance money to buy top-of-the-line refrigerators, will do anything to sell their story to the media to get their 15 minutes of fame.

These pressures drive Vernon

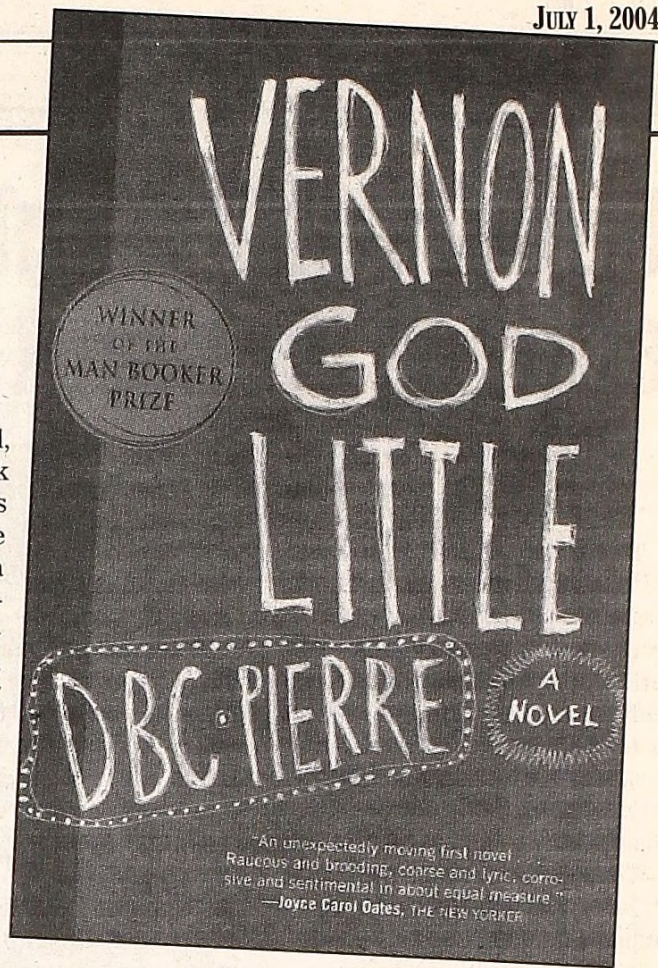
to the border. Literally. He does what any scared and confused 15-year-old would do; he takes off for Mexico. Here, the book turns into a travel piece as Vernon hightails it out of town with grandiose illusions of living in a beach house with his dream girl Taylor Figuero. He persuades Taylor to meet him in Acapulco where Vernon feels life is finally going his way—or is it?

The best thing about the book is Vernon himself. His colloquial narrative voice is reminiscent of Holden Caulfield from the *Catcher on the Rye*. Vernon is naïve yet speaks with a relative wisdom, honesty and profoundness uncommon to the typical teenager. His colorful and coarse dialogue carries us through the story as if his life were scenes from television shows and movies. He even provides his own sound track.

Despite a few dragged out pages, *Vernon God Little* is a fascinatingly funny first effort from Pierre and is highly recommended for a quick summer read. Pierre, the pen name of Peter Finlay, won the 2003 Man Booker Award for his first time effort. The book was also the winner of the Whitbread Award for Best

First Novel, a New York Times Notable Book and a San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the Year. It deserves them all.

Highly recommended.



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Bestseller wins critics accolades

The future of serious scholars often depends on their understanding of the past.

Is solving the mystery of the past worth sacrificing a life in the present? And who is to say when the pursuit of knowledge becomes an unhealthy obsession?

These are some of the daunting questions facing the characters of *The Rule of Four*—a first time novel by a pair of life-long best friends who began writing the book cooperatively after their respective graduations from Princeton and Harvard.

Four young men, roommates on the brink of graduating from Princeton in 1999, all face life choices. For two of them, however, the choices are not only life-altering, but perhaps, life threatening.

Tom Sullivan and Paul Harris share an intellectual capacity on the level of Albert Einstein. They are, each in their own way, fascinated with a 500-year-old manuscript, the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, written by an Italian aristocrat. The *Hypnerotomachia* (Phillip's search for love in a dream) has long confounded and mystified scholars.

Tom's father was a renowned Renaissance scholar who spent his life studying the mysteries of the book, teaching his son everything he could about the Latin, Greek and other languages used in the secretly coded manuscript. Tom lived with the *Hypnerotomachia* from the time he could sit up. As did his mother, although not happily. Tom's father died in an automobile accident in which Tom suffered serious injuries. Recovering from his grief and his physical impairments interrupted his fascination with the manuscript, but did not diminish Tom's fervor.

Paul, an underprivileged genius who has been fascinated with the mystery of the book since he first encountered it, makes a point of introducing himself to Tom on campus. Paul has been taken in to Princeton on scholarships and by benefactors—who want the secret of the *Hypnerotomachia*. Paul is gifted beyond reason in code breaking and riddle solving—keys to the real meaning of the *Hypnerotomachia*, a meaning that has eluded frustrated scholars for nearly five centuries.

Tom and Paul bond and take as roommates and best friends, Charlie, who will become a doctor and Gil, the

scion of a wealthy Wall Street family. Only Paul has not finished the Princeton required Senior Thesis, which must be complete for graduation. Paul is writing his, of course, on the *Hypnerotomachia* mysteries he has solved, under the guidance of his advisor who is also a fanatic about the book.

As these four young men attempt to make choices about their lives, readers learn how difficult those choices can be during the coming of age years. Wealth, intellect, a Princeton education—all can mean nothing or everything.

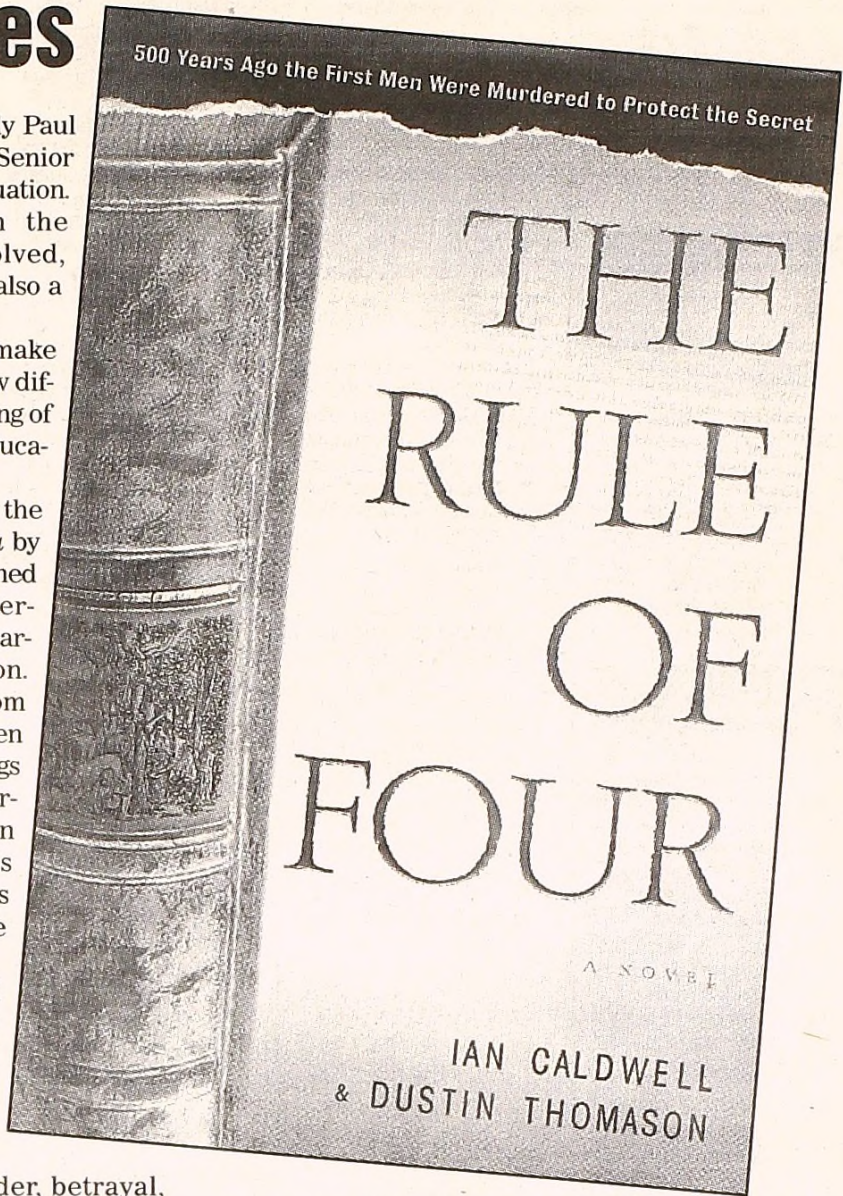
Tom was eventually lured away from the pages of the mysterious *Hypnerotomachia* by the love of Katie. Study of the book had turned him into a near zombie before she intervened. Their relationship, like that of his parents, was almost ruined by his obsession.

Katie pulls him back from near madness, but the siren call of the manuscript sings loudly when Paul, desperate to finish his thesis on time, again begs for his help. Because Paul has almost done it. With *The Rule of Four*, he has nearly solved the *Hypnerotomachia*.

This is wonderful writing, literate and fluent. It undulates with emotionally descriptive passages that will have readers re-reading again and again in admiration of the beauty of the language.

Amid Paul's discoveries of the real key to the *Hypnerotomachia*, there is murder, betrayal, intrigue, suicide and conspiracy—all in the name of scholarship. Paul's advisor is none other than one of Tom's father's former research cohorts and his benefactor is another—the two despise one another and will do anything to solve the *Hypnerotomachia* and prove the other a fool.

The authors have done a masterful job of exposing the desperation and madness an obsession can produce. And they have realistically created the world of Princeton today—where only the most superior of intellects will survive, let alone flourish.



Book Review
The Rule of Four
Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason

The Rule of Four has been on the best-seller lists for several weeks, and been compared to *The DaVinci Code* by some readers. It is far less controversial, far more limited in scope and has a much narrower focus.

While it, too, deals with a segment of religious history, it does not challenge or test readers' beliefs. It moves more slowly and the authors have labored with a far more elegant use of language to produce a first novel of real beauty, real pain and real people.

Recommended.

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Notice of Public Sale pursuant. To State Law, a Sale will be held on July 27, 2004 at 1:00 PM on the following units.
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J30=James Lewis=Furniture, Boxes
E18=Susan T Rochuk=Crib, Boxes, Chairs
D18= Todd Parsons= TV, Box Springs and Mattress, Boxes, Bags
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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION On July 6, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the

highest bidder:
1978 Jeep Pickup Truck Brown
J8A46YP149659
1989 Chevy Cavalier 2 Door-Grey
1G1JF11W8K7201630
1991 Ford Ranger Pickup Truck-Blue
1FTCR14U0MPA92665
1990 Chevy Cavalier 2 Door-Blue
1G1JC14G1LJ298560

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1988 Chrysler Lebaron 4 Door-Blue
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1999 Plymouth Breeze 4 Door-Silver
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1998 Chrysler Sebring 2 Door-Maroon
3C3EL55H0WT200367
2001 Ford Escort 2 Door-Blue
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1996 Ford Escort 2 Door-Maroon
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1988 Ford Ranger Pickup Truck-Grey
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2003 Ford Focus 2 Door-Grey
3FAHP31373R124639
1992 Oldsmobile Cutlass 4 Door-Grey
1G3AL54N2N6351656
1987 Volvo 244 4 Door-Grey
YV1AX8846H1263227

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

61. Misc. Items

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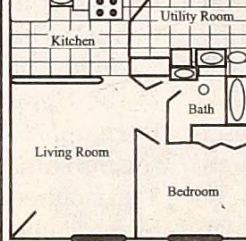
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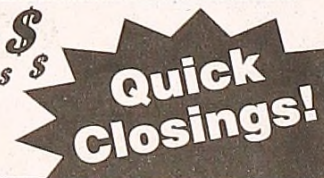

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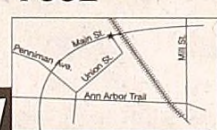
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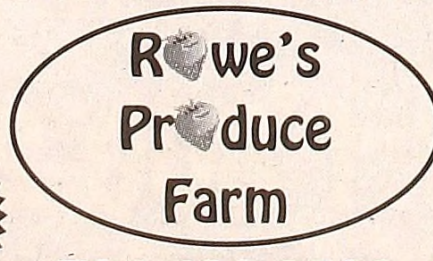
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